

WHAT DID PETERS, THE DERELICT, KNOW ABOUT MILLIONAIRE WARD? MYSTERY DEEPENS

Slayer's Story of Fatal Night on Lonely Road No Longer Believed, but Secret Is Still Unrevealed

IS THERE A WOMAN? HIS WIFE STICKS

Were Peters' 'Pals' Fictitious and Invented to Make Tale Plausible? And Where Are Marks of Ward's Thrilling "Battle" in the Dark?

"Will Stick to Him," Declares Mrs. Ward

Mrs. Ward says: "I am standing with my husband in his ordeal. I want to do everything I can for him. I have the utmost confidence in him."

Ward's attorney was asked: "Was there a woman in the case?" "The threats," he replied evasively, "were aimed at Mr. Ward's family. Ward and his wife have two children—a daughter four years old and a son a year old."

WHY did Walter S. Ward, millionaire, shoot and kill Clarence Peters, human derelict, a drifter, an "undesirable" from Ward's viewpoint? What was the hold that the shiftless ex-marine had upon the respected and wealthy leader of New Rochelle's best set—a hold that led to Ward's paying of \$30,000 in blackmail and his willingness to pay \$75,000 more and that finally culminated in that mad moment in which he tried to win the safety of silence by slaying his fellow man?

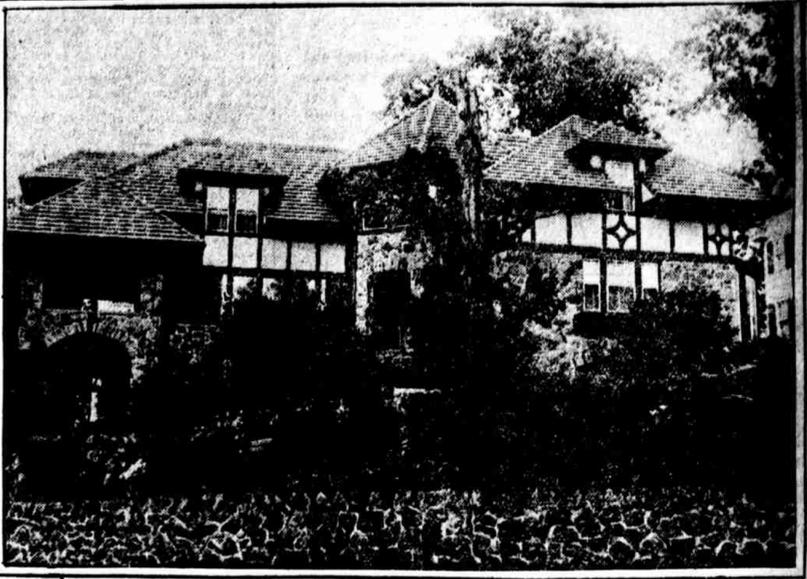
What did Peters "have on" this millionaire? And where are the two accomplices—if, indeed, they actually exist?

The authorities of White Plains, New York, are apparently no nearer a solution of this most startling of murder mysteries today than they were when, on May 16, the body of the then unidentified man was found beside the road at a lonely spot near the Kenisco Reservoir.

There was nothing then to tell who the slain man was. That, in itself and in the light of later developments, is significant. Men do not ordinarily go around the world without something about their clothes to give a clue as to their identity. There is a letter or something in a pocket or some little token that will give the police a starting point.

But Peters' body had nothing. Were all identification marks purposely removed?

The final identification was a triumph for the system of finger prints used by the Government. The only "lead" the authorities had when they examined the body was the fact that the under-



Above, the Wards' beautiful home in New Rochelle. Left, Mrs. Walter S. Ward, wife of the slayer, who says she still has faith in her husband

clothes were of the kind issued by the Navy and Marine Corps. And so a print was made of the dead man's fingers and this print was sent to Washington.

Secret Behind Killing Is Still Deep Mystery

Clarence Peters was not the kind of a man whom one would expect to be an associate of the Walter S. Ward's of this world. He was the son of a respected, but poor, people in Haverhill, but he himself had been a drifter and had been in trouble before. He was dishonorably discharged from the service in 1919 for bad conduct and, before that, had served a term in a reform school.

Yet, through some mysterious circumstances, he became the possessor of knowledge of the most intimate and secret details of Ward's life, and this knowledge was so dangerous to Ward that even the taking of a human being's life was not too great a price for the young millionaire to pay for silence.

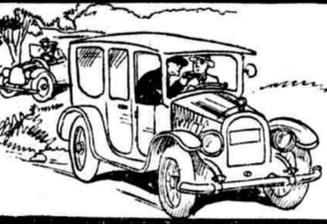
Ward Told a Plausible Story of the Tragedy

Ward claimed that Peters and two other men had been blackmailing him for six weeks and had obtained \$30,000 from him in various payments ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

The three men, he said, determined upon the night of Monday, May 15, as the time for a "clean-up and get-away." They demanded that Ward

Above is Walter S. Ward, millionaire slayer of Clarence Peters, human drifter and derelict

Below is Sheriff Werner holding the slayer's automatic. On the table is the revolver furnished by Ward as the weapon with which he says Peters tried to shoot him



Five Big "Whys" That Lead Police to Doubt Ward's Story

- Ward Says:** Peters' shot went wild and smashed a window of the auto.
- Then Why:** Was no shattered glass found nearby and has no one seen the smashed windows?
- Ward Says:** There was a pistol battle between the two men in the Stutz car and himself.
- Then Why:** Have only two shells from his automatic been found and no signs of such a struggle as he describes?
- Ward Says:** Many shots were fired during this battle.
- Then Why:** Did none of the dozen persons sleeping nearby hear anything?
- Ward Says:** The "blackmailers" have been bleeding him for six weeks or more.
- Then Why:** Did the plot involve Peters, who arrived in New York only two days before he was killed?
- Ward Says:** He drove through White Plains to a lonely spot before the shooting, with Peters in his car.
- Then Why:** Did he not make some outcry or struggle in the village where help would have come immediately?

meet them at a certain spot on the road between Port Chester and White Plains, beyond the Kenisco reservoir, with \$75,000 to hand over to them in cash.

Ward drove to the appointed place in his Peerless coupe. He was alone. He says his intention was to "temporarily" with the men and put them off with whatever excuse they would accept for the non-payment of so large a sum of money at that time.

It was almost 4 o'clock on Tuesday morning when they met. Peters, known to him as "Pete," was in a red Stutz roadster with Charles Ross and Jack. The last named man was driving.

Peters jumped out of the Stutz and ran over to the left side of the Peerless, stepping on the running board and putting a pistol against Ward's left side.

"Now, you drive where we tell you to. Go right ahead," Peters commanded.

Ward went ahead, and Ross and Jack followed him. They proceeded in this fashion for about three miles, driving through White Plains. At a lonely spot on the road Peters ordered Ward to stop. This he did. Then the Stutz passed him and pulled across the road about twenty feet ahead of him.

The fact that Ward is left-handed had an important bearing on what followed. Except for this fact he probably would not have been able to use the strategy with which he says he bested Peters. Ward also is a crack shot, and as chairman of the New Rochelle Police Commission has a permit to carry a pistol.

When the two cars stopped Peters, still covering Ward with his pistol, jumped from the tool box on the left running board, on which he had been riding, and ran around to the right side of the car. Meanwhile Ward says he slipped his left hand down by his side, opened the flap of a pocket on the inside of the left-hand door and took out his pistol.



CLARENCE PETERS The dishonorably discharged marine secret robs his life

Peters by the right wrist. His pistol hand caught in this way, Peters fired a shot, but it went wild. It bored through the left side window of the coupe, Ward declares.

Ward being left-handed, Peters did not know his opponent was armed. Grappling with Peters, Ward caught him by the guard and fired a single shot which caught him in the chest, and spun him around so that he fell off the road.

The bullet took a downward course and came out of his back eight inches below the place it had struck.

Jumping from his car, Ward says he ran toward the two men in the Stutz and started his machine and sped away toward White Plains, leaving Peters dying or dead beside the road. Ward was not hit. He says he thinks he would not have been able to use the strategy with which he says he bested Peters.

After Ward made a complete statement of the facts of the shooting to the Sheriff he was taken before District Attorney F. E. Weeks, to whom he repeated his story. The District Attorney agreed to his release in \$10,000 bail and Justice Seeger ordered such disposition to be made.

When the bail bond was fixed Ward drew a fat roll of bills from his pocket and posted \$10,000 with the clerk of the court.

Aug. Ward walked out, a free man and apparently cleared of suspicion until the weak points in his story led to his recent re-arrest.

Peters; Richard Short, whose farm, Leont Grove, is half a mile away, and William Briggs, a farm hand employed by Mr. Eckhardt, all viewed the body as it lay alongside the road between the Eckhardt place and the Kenisco Reservoir.

Nobody Heard Sound of Ward's "Battle"

All three said they examined the body and there was no bullet hole in either the coat or vest, but there was one in the undershirt, which, with the flesh, was burned, indicating a shot at close quarters.

There was no guess in the road, although Ward had said a window in his car had been shattered by a bullet.

Briggs said the great impression was that the body had been carried to the spot. There was no blood on the ground and none on Peters' outer clothes.

Mr. Eckhardt's house is 200 yards back from the road. He said he was a light sleeper and his windows were open. Ten persons live in or about the house. None heard any shots. Short recalled he heard one car in the highway, which is little traveled late at night.

John Mossowitz sleeps in the Eckhardt garage, only eight yards from the road. He heard no shots. An investigator later fired a shot at the spot where the body was found, and it reported at home.

Another point to be cleared up is how Peters could have been in New York blackmailing Ward for six weeks, or more, when, according to all accounts, he was not in that city until two days before he was killed.

He left his home in Haverhill, Mass., April 25, and went to Paris Island, S. C., hoping to join the Marine Corps. He had been discharged from the Navy after being convicted of larceny and had been convicted of an automobile theft at home.

Ward declared that Peters' shot lodged in a tree after smashing the window of the car.

At the spot where the body was found on the edge of the State highway is a large oak tree, fifteen feet up the trunk and twelve feet from the road. It has several marks in the bark, but none of them are a depth of more than one-third of an inch. They look as though they might have been made by linemen's spurs. Also the marks are all inside a space fourteen inches in diameter and the rest of the tree is not marked.

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leaves and not a leaf has been torn away or marked.

There was no sign of a struggle in the gravel edge of the road, and the fall grass had not been trampled at all.

Ward was asked at his home in New Rochelle by the newspaperman to permit them to examine his coupe, in which he drove with Peters, and a window of which he said was shattered by a bullet. He refused to do so.

In the face of all the public discussion of the case, Ward and his lawyers maintained silence on all these unanswered questions.

Why Did Not Ward Fight in White Plains?

Another question brought up in connection with the holding of Ward says the blackmailers had him, was with a powerful physician, and did not attempt to overpower Peters, whom they drove through the City of White Plains, or at least try to attract some one's attention, instead of going on for miles into the country.

There was a report in White Plains that a wire tapping had been done at work. Sheriff Werner said he had heard of it. He said he did not know that Ward had a gun, and that he had no trace of "Charles Ross" and "Jack," whom, Ward said, were the other

members of the blackmail gang besides Peters, and who followed him in the red coupe, eventually engaging in the shooting affair with him.

That Ward did go frequently to the race tracks in and around New York has been established, but no one could be found who knew of his having become involved in betting or other operations that would have left him open to blackmail.

Ward was fairly well known to a small circle of club house commissioners, but not considered a spectacular bettor or plunger. In the words of one commissioner, he was a "hard boiled" bettor \$500 or \$1000 each way on a race and usually on the night horse. His bets were usually last minute ones and led to a support of some of the known persons connected with racing stables.

Through inquiries of the Pinkerton detectives on truck police duty, who search "strays" and other undesirable, it was established that neither "Charles Ross" nor Peters was known to them. Neither was "Ross" known to the betting commission, who know their bettors and the present system of betting.

And why so many questions unanswered and still left to the public to solve? What did Peters, the derelict, know about Ward the millionaire?

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PENILESS SCULPTOR TO WED HIS CHICAGO SOCIETY PUPIL

Stanislaw Szukalski, Staring Genius, Wins Heart of Helen Walker—Dissected Father's Body to Learn Anatomy

New York, May 27.—Stanislaw Szukalski has gone to Chicago to marry Miss Helen Walker. Szukalski is a penniless sculptor, whose genius has been recognized by Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney, John Sloan, Robert Henri, Peter Larson, Walter Dean Childers and other artists and critics, but who has, nevertheless, been frequently ill from hunger in the last year. Miss Walker is the daughter of Dr. Samuel T. Walker, one of Chicago's most prominent physicians.

The marriage, which is to take place within a few days, followed by a honeymoon in Canada and later residence in New York, is the climax of a courtship which has been a cause of interested gossip in the artistic and social circles of two cities. It is the romance of a talented, bold and popular society girl and a strange, young Polish genius.

Dr. Walker, a member of an old and socially secure family, was graduated at Yale in the class of '82, and has been president of the Yale Club in Chicago; he has established himself as a leading physician; he is a widower, his other daughter, Harriet, married Paul Welling, son of the former president of the Illinois Central Railroad. Miss Walker was one of the bridesmaids at the scheduled wedding of Miss Mary Baker and Mister McCormick, who waited waity at the church for Miss Baker to appear.

Szukalski at sixteen was the infant phenomenon at the Art Museum of Cracow in Poland. His curious, tortured, but anatomically perfect creations in clay and bronze brought attention from Berlin, St. Petersburg and Vienna to see his work. His father had emigrated to America and set up a blacksmith shop in Chicago. With the money derived from the purchase of some of his work by the "Cracow" museum, young Szukalski came to America to join him. Until the elder Szukalski's death, father and son were constant companions, and frequently Stanislaw's relaxed invitations to dinner and parties on the ground that his father, "the greatest man that ever lived and I am next," as he said unthinkingly, and he was going for a walk.

Stanislaw's father was killed in a street car accident. Stanislaw found the body in the morgue. He showed no emotion. He went to the officials and asked for a permit to keep the body. When they asked him what for, he answered: "I want to dissect it. I am too poor to buy the cadavers of other men. My father would wish it." It was this by dissecting the body of his own father that young Szukalski acquired his knowledge of the structure of the human body which even in his most bizarre conceptions is startlingly accurate.

JOHNNIE'S DIME HELPS

Grateful Youngster Gives Mite to Samaritan Hospital Fund

If the amount of Johnnie's gift could be his spirit, Samaritan Hospital would not need to wage a campaign for funds to build its new wing. He gave his mite into hospital headquarters and handed to the attendant a "That's for the hospital, I can't say any more. My mom says she'll give a lot more. My dad says she'll give a lot more. My mom says she'll give a lot more. My dad says she'll give a lot more."



THE BLAIN FAMILY At the top, Marvin, Doris, Leslie and, in center, Kenneth, brothers and sister of Clarence Peters. Below, his parents